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A NEW SPECIES OF IRESINE FROM THE UNITED STATES.

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Iresine is one of the larger genera of the Amaranthaceae, being represented in North America by approximately thirty species, and in South America by many others. The genus is chiefly tropical, only three species being known to occur in the United States. Hitherto only a single one, *Iresine celosioides* L., has been reported from this area, but there are two others which are undescribed, one of them an inhabitant chiefly of northeastern Mexico, but extending also into Arizona, New Mexico, and western Texas, and another which is here discussed.

Apparently no one has ever doubted that the *Iresine* which ranges from Maryland to Tennessee and Kansas, and southward to Alabama and eastern Texas, is the same as the Linnaean *I. celosioides*, a species which has a wide range in tropical America, and occurs also along the southern borders of the United States. It has never been given a distinctive name, even by any of the early American botanists who were sometimes wont to pronounce a plant a distinct species simply because it came from a locality well outside the previously known range of the species to which it really belonged. Indeed, the present plant seems to have received little attention from botanists of the United States, few of whom have been acquainted with it in the field. This ignorance of the live plant is well proved by the fact that all the manuals describe it as an annual, while, as a matter of fact, it is a perennial with long

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slender rootstocks. This character is sometimes shown in herbarium material, but too often the dried specimens show nothing of the underground parts. *Iresine celosioides* is typically an annual, with a slender or stout taproot. Under favorable tropical conditions the plants doubtless persist for more than a single season, but they never, so far as known, develop rootstocks. Nor is this important difference in habit the only character which differentiates the two species. In *Iresine celosioides* the sepals of the pistillate flowers are 3-nerved, usually obtuse, and longer than the utricle, while in the species here described they are faintly 1-nerved, acute, and equal to or usually shorter than the utricle. In herbarium material there is an evident difference in general appearance, the leaves of the former being usually yellowish, small, and thick, while those of the latter are bright green, larger, and thin.

Iresine rhizomatosa Standley sp. nov.

Iresine celosioides Michx. Fl. Bor. Amer. 2: 244. 1803, and of many other authors; not Iresine celosioides L.

Iresine paniculata Uline & Bray, Bot. Gaz. 21: 353. 1896, in part, and of recent American authors; not Celosia paniculata L.

Perennial from slender elongate horizontal rootstocks; stems commonly solitary, herbaceous, stout or slender, erect, 3-15 cm. high, usually simple up to the inflorescence, sparsely villous with short hairs, more densely villous at the nodes, sometimes glabrous throughout, the nodes slightly swollen, the internodes 5-14 cm. long; petioles slender, 0.8-3 cm. long; leaf blades broadly deltoid-ovate to ovate or elliptic-oval, 6-15 cm. long, 2-7 cm. wide, acute or rather abruptly acute to long-acuminate at the apex (or the lowermost very rarely obtuse), truncate to acute at the base and usually slightly decurrent, thin, bright green, bearing a few scattered short stout hairs on the upper surface along the veins, sparsely pubescent beneath with short stout soft hairs, or sometimes nearly glabrous; pistillate panicles 7-30 cm. long and 2.5-20 cm. broad, much branched, the stoutish branches erect or ascending, usually dense, sparsely villous, the spikelets alternate or opposite, stout, densely flowered, 0.5-2 cm. long, the staminate panicles often laxly branched and with longer spikelets; bracts white, equaling or somewhat shorter than the sepals, ovate to ovate-orbicular, acute or acutish; sepals ovateoblong or oblong, acute or acuminate, 1-1.3 mm. long, faintly 1-nerved, white, the pistillate flowers bearing copious long white wool at the base; lobes of the staminal cup nearly obsolete; utricle equaling or commonly longer than the sepals; seed suborbicular, dark red, shining, 0.5 mm. in diameter.

Type in the U.S. National Herbarium, No. 865,290, collected in shaded

alluvial soil on the south side of Plummers Island, in the Potomac River, Montgomery County, Maryland, October 4, 1915, by Paul C. Standley (No. 12,500).

Additional specimens examined: Maryland: Plummers Island, 1896, Topping; in 1903, Kearney 173; Oct. 18, 1896, Pollard, Topping & Olds (no other locality is given than the heading of the label, which is "District of Columbia," but the specimens probably came from Plummers Island). Tennessee: Knoxville, 1898, Ruth 182. Nashville, 1877, Ward; in 1883, Gattinger. Alabama: In 1878, Mohr. Missouri: Eagle Rock, 1896, Bush 445. Lakeside, 1908, Bush 5160. Kansas: Arkansas City, 1891, Carleton 486. Oklahoma: Palmer 281. Cimarron River, 1895, J. H. Kimmons. Near Jennings, 1896, Ward 36. Sapulpa, 1894, Bush 482. Texas: Lindheimer 1111. Columbia, 1899, Bush 336. Near Houston, 1898, Thurow; in 1912, G. L. Fisher 176.

The writer has also seen other specimens of this species in the herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden and in the Gray Herbarium, but unfortunately no record of them has been kept.

The occurrence of the plant upon Plummers Island is of great interest, for the station is the northernmost locality now known for the species and for the genus. It seems probable that seeds have been brought down by the Potomac from some locality in the mountains, although the genus is not known upon the east slope of the Alleghanies; or perhaps the plants are the last survivors of ancestors which had a wider range in Maryland and Virginia. There are several colonies of the plant upon Plummers Island consisting of numerous individuals, but in 1915 only two or three plants flowered.